

Amendments to the Specification

IN THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

Please replace paragraphs [0014], [0033], [0037] and [0038] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0014] ~~The coupling may be used on pipelines where no axial restraint is required in which case there is no provision for axially locking the coupling to the pipes. However, in the preferred embodiment of the invention, The frustoconical gripping rings are located within the casing at opposite ends of the casing, the inner edges of the gripping rings being formed with teeth. When the coupling is placed around the ends of the two pipes to be connected and the tensioning means are tightened, the casing forces the teeth on the gripping rings into the surface of the pipes to grip the pipe, and provides axial locking of the coupling to the pipes~~ surfaces of the pipes to grip the pipes, thereby locking the coupling to the pipes against axial movement.

[0033] The bridging member 18 is ~~place~~placed in the casing 12 and the sealing gasket 13 is inserted into the casing 12, the resilience of the steel allowing the casing to be opened up sufficiently for the gasket 13 to be inserted past the end flanges 17. The bridging member 18 is positioned to span the longitudinal gap 14.

[0037] In use, the ends of two plain ended pipes 60 are inserted into the coupling 11 from opposite ends as shown in Fig. 2. A space may be left between the pipe ends to allow for angular deflection, or to avoid abrasive wear, or to dampen vibration. With the coupling in place, the screw bolts 25 are tightened to clamp the coupling 11 to the pipes. As the bolts 25 are tightened, the radial flanges 15 of the

casing 12 are drawn together, thereby ~~applying a causing the~~ ~~casing to apply~~ radially compressive ~~fore~~forces to the ~~easing~~gasket 13 and the gripping rings 50. The bridging member 18 is arranged so as to span the longitudinal gap 14 in the casing 12. In this way the bridging member 18 supports the gasket 13 in the region of the gap 15 where there is no support from the casing 12.

[0038] The tightening of the tensioning bolts 25 presses the annular sealing lips 43 into sealing contact with the outer surfaces of the pipe ends 60. At the same time, the outer edge of the gripping ring 50 engages in the angle between the end flange 17 and the web portion of the casing 12 causing the gripping ring to be ~~is~~ pushed inwardly. The compression of the gripping ~~rings~~ 50 causes the teeth 4252 to bite into the ~~surfaces~~surfaces of the ~~pipe~~pipes 60, thereby providing locking of the coupling 11 to the ~~pipe~~pipes against axial movement.